

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 376

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the men and women who fought the Jasper Fire in the Black Hills of South Dakota should be commended for their heroic efforts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 12 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the men and women who fought the Jasper Fire in the Black Hills of South Dakota should be commended for their heroic efforts.

Whereas the Jasper Fire started at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2000, near Jasper Cave in the Black Hills National Forest and was contained at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2000;

Whereas two days after it started, the Jasper Fire nearly quadrupled in size in a matter of hours, burned as fast as 100 acres per second, and ultimately became the worst forest fire in the history of the Black Hills, consuming 83,508 acres;

Whereas the Jasper Fire threatened private homes in the Black Hills, including the South Dakota communities of

Deerfield, Custer, and Hill City, Jewel Cave National Monument, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and forced the evacuation of many residents in northwestern Custer County and southwestern Pennington County;

Whereas volunteers from 67 community fire departments from across South Dakota made up a substantial part of the 1,160 men and women who worked around the clock to contain the Jasper Fire;

Whereas the Tatanka Hotshot crew, an elite 20-person firefighting team based in the Black Hills, came from fighting fires in western Wyoming to help fight the Jasper Fire;

Whereas while the Tatanka Hotshot crew has fought several fires throughout the country, the Jasper Fire was the first major fire they fought in their home forest;

Whereas the outpouring of support for the firefighters by local residents and communities, such as Hill City and Custer, helped boost firefighter morale; and

Whereas, in spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and size of the fire, the Jasper Fire was contained successfully with only one home lost and with no injuries to any firefighters or local citizens: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) the Jasper Fire was the largest forest fire
3 in the history of the Black Hills National Forest,
4 consuming 83,508 acres;

5 (2) the volunteer firefighters from across South
6 Dakota played a crucial role in combating the Jas-

1 per Fire and preventing it from destroying hundreds
2 of homes;

3 (3) the Tatanka Hotshot crew was instrumental
4 in providing the effort, expertise and training nec-
5 essary to establish a fire line around the Jasper
6 Fire; and

7 (4) the men and women who fought the Jasper
8 Fire are commended for their bravery, their extraor-
9 dinary efforts to contain the fire, and their commit-
10 ment to protect lives, property, and the surrounding
11 communities.

○